

#### BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION CC

## **COMMISSIONERS**

BOB STUMP, Chairman **GARY PIERCE BRENDA BURNS** ROBERT BURNS SUSAN BITTER SMITH

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF FAR WEST WATER & SEWER, INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FAIR VALUE OF ITS UTILITY PLANT AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGES BASED THEREON FOR UTILITY SERVICE

DOCKET NO. WS-03478A-12-0307

NOTICE OF FILING TESTIMONY **SUMMARIES** 

Far West Water and Sewer, Inc. ("Far West") hereby provides notice of filing the attached Testimony Summaries.

Respectfully submitted on April 17, 2013, by:

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

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TESTIMONY SUMMARIES FAR WEST WATER & SEWER, INC. APRIL 17, 2013 Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket No. WS-03478A-12-0307 Testimony Summaries

### **DIRECT TESTIMONY**

Mr. Ray Jones testifies in support of a rate application by Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. ("Far West" or "Company"). Far West seeks a determination of (i) the fair value of its wastewater utility property for ratemaking purposes, (ii) a fair and reasonable rate of return thereon, and iii) increases in its rates and charges for wastewater utility service in its certificated service area. Mr. Jones first testifies concerning his qualifications and then discusses Far West's wastewater operations.

Mr. Jones next discusses Far West's recent upgrades to its wastewater facilities, as required by a Consent Judgment with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. As of the end of the test year, Far West has completed Phase I of the Section 14 Plant expansion, closed the Palm Shadows wastewater treatment plant and directed its flow to the Section 14 Plant and completed the Phase I Del Oro Plant expansion. Far West's new wastewater treatment plants are state-of-the-art facilities that, through an ultra-filtration process, will produce reclaimed water that is A+quality. Far West's plant-in-service balance has increased from \$13,420,251 (2004 test year) to \$37,751,132 in this filing (2011 test year).

Mr. Jones next discusses Far West's regulatory history and its grim financial condition. Mr. Jones explains that the present financial condition is largely a result of Far West's massive investment in new plant. Since its last rate case, rate base has increased from \$1,549,650 to \$22,800,578.

Mr. Jones next provides an overview of Far West's rate request and then discusses the request in detail including test-year rate base, income, expenses, and cost of capital. Far West requests a rate increase of \$3,866,046, or 173.52%, to allow it to earn a 7.409% rate of return on its original cost rate base.

Attached to Mr. Jones' testimony are three exhibits:

- Exhibit RLJ-DT1 Resume of Ray Jones
- Exhibit RLJ-DT2 Description of Far West Wastewater System
- Exhibit RLJ-DT3 Required Schedules

#### REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

Mr. Ray Jones responds to the Rate Design Testimony of Staff (Becker), RUCO (Coley), and the Joint Rate Design Testimony of Robert and Barbara Gilkey and Robert Rist.

Mr. Jones presents the Company's rebuttal rate design for each class of customer. The Company has changed its commercial rate design to closely resemble Staff's proposed commercial rate design and address concerns raised by Robert and Barbara Gilkey and Robert Rist. The Company's RV Park rate has been updated to include a base monthly charge and to increase the RV space rate to 33.33 percent of the residential rate.

Mr. Jones explains why the Company continues to advocate for a market based effluent rate, explaining the long-term benefits to the Company and its customers.

Lastly, Mr. Jones explains why the Company cannot support a phase-in of rates.

Far West Water & Sewer, Inc. Docket No. WS-03478A-12-0307 Testimony Summaries

## **REBUTTAL RATE DESIGN TESTIMONY**

Mr. Ray Jones responds to the Rate Design Testimony of Staff (Becker), RUCO (Coley), and the Joint Rate Design Testimony of Robert and Barbara Gilkey and Robert Rist.

Mr. Jones presents the Company's rebuttal rate design for each class of customer. The Company has changed its commercial rate design to closely resemble Staff's proposed commercial rate design and address concerns raised by Robert and Barbara Gilkey and Robert Rist. The Company's RV Park rate has been updated to include a base monthly charge and to increase the RV space rate to 33.33 percent of the residential rate.

Mr. Jones explains why the Company continues to advocate for a market based effluent rate, explaining the long-term benefits to the Company and its customers. Lastly, Mr. Jones explains why the Company cannot support a phase-in of rates.

# **REJOINDER TESTIMONY**

Mr. Ray Jones responds to the Surrebuttal Testimony of Staff (Becker, Cassidy and Liu), RUCO (Fish, Duffett, Coley and Rigsby), Spartan Homes (Householder), Robert and Barbara Gilkey, and Robert Rist.

Mr. Jones presents rejoinder testimony regarding expense adjustments proposed by RUCO that the Company is willing to accept. Mr. Jones also summarizes the remaining differences in positions of the parties.

Mr. Jones presents rebuttal testimony regarding cost of capital, agreeing to accept Staff's cost of capital.

Mr. Jones addresses Staff's recommendations that the Company meet certain preconditions before rates in this case are implemented, providing updates on the Company's recommended alternatives.

Next Mr. Jones responds to the Direct Testimony filed by Mr. and Mrs. Gilkey, Mr. Rist and Spartan Homes.

Lastly, Mr. Jones provides Far West's position on the appointment of an interim manager and responds to the March 28, 2012, letter docketed by Commissioner Bitter Smith.

Far West rejoinder position requests a rate increase of \$3,485,582, or 156.23%, to allow it to earn a 7.4% rate of return on its adjusted original cost rate base of \$20,556,719.